

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR IN UN
SUBJECT: NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF ATHERTON-SINGH MEETING

SUMMARY: THE ATHERTAON-SINGH MEETING IN WASHINGTON RECEIVED
A GOOD INDIAN PRESS, WITH ONE SOMEWHAT INDIRECT EXCEPTION.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE INDIAN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS ACCORDED
RATHER EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THE 18 DECMBER MEETING IN
WASHINGTON BETWEEN INDIAN AMBASSADOR KEWAL SINGH AND ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF STATE ALFRED ATHERTON. IN GENERALLY FRONT-PAGE
ACCOUNTS IT WAS STATED THAT THE PURPOSES OF THE MEETING WERE
TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS MADE TO DATE BY THE SUBCOMMISSIONS
OF THE INDO-AMERICAN JOINT COMMISSION AND TO SET TENTATIVE
DATES FOR THE NEXT CONVENING OF THE SUBCOMMISSIONS ON
ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION AND ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY (BOTH IN WASHINGTON DURING MARCH AND APRIL)
AND ON EDUCATION AND CULTURE (INSIMLA DURING APRIL).

2. ALL ACCOUNTS, FOLLOWING SAMACHAR, STATED THAT THERE
WAS AGREEMENT AT THE MEETING THAT THE WORK DONE BY THE
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SUBCOMMISSIONS HAD CONTRIBUTED "IN SUBSTANTIVE TERMS
TO THE EXPANSION AND DIVERSIFICATION OF INDO-US RELA-
TIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, EDUCATIONAL, AND SCIENTIFIC FIELDS."
THE ACCOUNTS QUOTED KEWAL SINGH AS SAYING THAT THE
DISCUSSIONS WERE TAKING PLACE AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME
AND WOULD BE USEFUL IN CLERALLY MAPPING OUT FUTURE ACTIONS

FOR THE COMMISSION AND ITS SUBCOMMISSIONS, AT THE VERY
OUTSET OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION; ATHERTON WAS REPORTED
TO HAVE CONCURRED IN THIS OPINION. THE "SUNDAY STANDARD"
FURTHER REPORTED AMBASSADOR SINGH AS SAYING THAT THE BASIC
EMERGING TREND IN INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS WAS THAT OF A
REALISTIC AND WORKING RELATIONSHIP BASED ON GOOD WILL AND
MUTUAL RESPECT, WITH THE OBJECT OF STRENGTHENING CLOSE
COOPERATION AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

3. EXCEPTION TO THE POSITIVE PLAY GIVEN THE SINGH-ATHERTON
DISCUSSION WAS REGISTERED, NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, BY THE CPI-
BACKED "PATRIOT". A 19 DECEMBER EDITORIAL TITLED "BAFFLING"
OBSERVED THAT "THE INCREASINGLY FREQUENT DISCOVERIES OF
A POSITIVE BASIS FOR EXCITINGLY CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN
INDIA AND AMERICA THAT SOME OF OUR SPOKESMEN HAVE MADE IN
RECENT MONTHS BAFFLE COMPREHENSION... SENIOR REPRESENTA-
TIVES OF THE COUNTRY LIKE MR. KEWAL SINGH TEND TO MAKE
LIGHT OF THE BASIC CONFLICTS ON ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL
QUESTIONS THAT HAVE FORCED THIS COUNTRY TO BE ON GUARD
AGAINST ALL NEO-COLONIAL IMPERIALIST INTRUSIONS AS THE
"LEGACY OF MISTRUST AND MISUNDERSTANDING."
SCHNEIDER

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